

CLINICAL ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY. By L. G. Kilopp, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P., and J. W. Osselton, B.Sc. (Pp. x + 135; figs. 94. 50s.) London: Butterworth, 1961.

THE authors are to be congratulated on having produced a small, sensible and up-to-date book. They are well aware of the clinical limitations of the subject and the chapter entitled "The Value and Limitation of Electroencephalography" is straightforward and sound. A paragraph is given to the normal E.E.G. associated with epileptic attacks and the fact that a normal routine interseizure E.E.G. is fairly common in epileptics is also stressed. However, they do not make the point that a normal record can frequently occur not only with slowly growing posterior fossa tumours but also with infiltrating gliomas in the cerebrum. This is a minor criticism of a pleasantly set out and well-illustrated book, and it is strongly recommended to the general physician who would like to know more about this useful clinical tool.

J. H. D. M.

ESSAYS ON THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF ANÆSTHESIA. By W. Stanley Sykes, M.B.E., M.B., B.Chir.(Cant.), D.A. Volume II. (Pp. viii + 187; pls. 46. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1961.

THE reviewer had the privilege of giving an opinion on the first volume of this memorable work and in this the value of the book was emphasised not only to anæsthetists but also to any reader who is interested in the historical side of medicine and, in particular, in some of the more interesting sidelights of both medical and surgical practice in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. In Volume II Dr. Stanley Sykes, whose death has recently been reported in the medical press, has excelled himself even more than in the first volume.

Volume II reports a fantastic amount of research in early literature of anæsthesia and para-anæsthetic topics. One very good example of para-anæsthetic topics is the chapter entitled "Natural Anæsthesia," in which he describes the absence of pain, presumably due to adrenaline release, in subjects who have been attacked by lions. The wide scope of the references quoted can be shown by the fact that this previous instance was taken from David Livingstone's book, "A Popular Account of Missionary Travels and Research in South Africa," published in 1875.

Other fascinating subjects dealt with included "Thirty-seven Little Things that have All caused Death"; "Anæsthesia and the Cardiologists" (which is not what one would expect from its title); and "Prophecies which went Wrong."

Taking the two volumes together, they must form one of the most entertaining contributions to medical literature in recent years.

J. W. D.

THE VESICO VAGINAL FISTULA. By Chassar Moir, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 168; pls. 53. 40s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1961.

ANY publication of Professor Chassar Moir's is always worth reading and possessing. This book is no exception to the rule. It contains the author's experience of some 250 urinary fistulæ and is attractively divided into chapters which deal with individually important aspects of the subject.

It is interesting to note how, as the result of improved obstetric practice, only 27.4 per cent. of cases of fistulæ are associated with childbirth, whereas 72.6 per cent. result from gynæcological operations or associated lesions. These figures, had they been investigated in the early part of the century would undoubtedly have been reversed, probably 90 per cent. of the fistulæ being due to birth injury at that period.

The operative details essential in dealing with all types of fistulæ are beautifully described and illustrated, and the important aspects of post-operative nursing and treatment are also carefully described. These details are essential for use in most units today because of the infrequency of cases of vesico vaginal fistulæ and therefore the relative inexperience of most gynæcologists.

This book is a most valuable contribution to the subject and should be carefully studied by all postgraduates and by all gynæcologists.

C. H. G. M.